

# DURANT WEEKLY NEWS

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NUMBER EIGHT

## DURANT IS TO HAVE A DEPOT

So Says Col. Geo. A. Henshaw, Who Visited White in Okla. this week

R. E. Powers returned to Oklahoma City Monday where he attended a conference of the state council of the Knights of Columbus of Oklahoma.

Mr. Powers reports that he had an interview Monday with Hon. Geo. A. Henshaw of the state corporation commission, in regard to the building of the new depot in Durant, and that Mr. Henshaw assured him that things are moving apace along the line and that the depot will unquestionably be built, and that, too, with out much further delay.

Mr. Henshaw stated that he expected to go before the Supreme Court today and ask to have the case remanded to the corporation commission with an instruction limiting the expense of the depot not to exceed 45 thousand dollars, which the representatives of the railroad companies assured him would be satisfactory.

The plan of the depot prepared by Architect Jewell Hicks of this city, the railroad representatives contend would cost more than 100 thousand dollars, and they refused to invest so much in a depot, and the supreme court would not require it of them. Mr. Henshaw stated that after the meeting of the representatives of the railroad companies and the representatives of the city of Durant on January 28, that Mr. Frates, general manager of the Frisco lines, had laid the matter before the receivers of the road and had reported back to Mr. Henshaw that they desired that the corporation commission should make an order requiring the road to build the depot, as they preferred to have it appear that way on the records, instead of appearing to have been built voluntarily by the roads.

Mr. Powers stated that from the assurance that he had from Commissioner Henshaw and Governor Williams, with whom he also discussed the matter, that he is satisfied that Durant will get the new depot within the very near future.

## SHRINERS BOMBARD DURANT EN ROUTE TO HUGO SUNDAY

Special Train bearing a hundred and fifty of them stopped here for supper; Durant Shriners accompany train into Hugo.

A special train, bearing over two hundred shriners, from cities north of this place, on their pilgrimage to Hugo arrived here Sunday night from Muskogee, and the bunch was entertained with the regulation "shiner's standing lunch," by the members of the order of this city. The lunch was served by Frank Price at the Fish and Oyster Parlor. After their arrival the visiting shriners put on a march through the streets of the down town district, headed by their band, and a good time was enjoyed while here.

At least thirty tickets were sold here for Hugo, some of them joining the special train and a number going on the regular train. Among those who went were: Henry Bass and Frank Semple, Caddo; Tom Hamilton and W. S. Bowles of Colbert; Green Thompson, Geo. Harris, D. S. MacDonald, O. R. Nicholson, Frank Gibson, Oley Paschal, B. A. McKinney, C. O. Johnson, and C. E. England of this city. Col. E. T. Haynes as a novice accompanied the bunch.

This is the annual ceremonial exercise which is being held in Hugo to commemorate the birth of Geo. Washington, the charter being taken from Muskogee.

## The Elks' Masquerade.

The masquerade ball given at the Elks' Club on Monday night, Washington's birthday, was one of the big attractions of that day here. A hundred couples, in round numbers, were masked and on the floor. The music was furnished by Lowenstein's Orchestra from Ardmore. The costumes worn were of many kinds, from the ridiculous to the elegant, and everybody seemed to enjoy them selves.

J. E. Shelout was in from Silo on business Wednesday.

## PER CAPITA PAYMENT TO PASS U. S. SENATE

Payment if made, means a distribution of five million dollars to Chickasaw nation and half a million in Chickasaw.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Two hundred dollar per capita payment for members of the Choctaw Indian tribe and one hundred dollars for the members of the Chickasaw Indian tribes was retained in the Indian appropriation bill by the Senate Committee of Indian Affairs on a vote of 6 to 4. By the senate vote the committee defeated the La Follette amendment, which would have reopened the citizenship rolls of the nation and allowed a reconsideration for thousands of applicants for membership. The fight was to be carried to the floor in the senate where it is feared that the opposition of the Mississippi Choctaws and the thousand of other claimants may defeat the Choctaws end of the payment. Should both of the payments be permitted it will mean the distribution of nearly 5 million dollars in Southern Oklahoma. If the payment is confined to the Chickasaws, as was the case last year, it would only mean a distribution of 500 thousand dollars.

## Guilty of Obstructing Mails.

A jury in the Federal Court at Muskogee brought in a verdict of guilty Friday in the case of Bob Wortham, Jack Davis, Joe Davis, and Buck Bethoff, who were tried this week on a charge of conspiracy in obstructing the United States mails on the morning of October 29, 1912, by holding up the Katy limited at the town of Wirt, near here. All were found guilty on two counts except Jack Davis who was found guilty on the conspiracy count only. The men were ordered taken into custody and were marched to the federal jail where they are being held. The maximum penalty is two years and 40 thousand dollars fine and the minimum is 160 fine. Attorneys for the men will at once make application for the bond and the case will be appealed. The same men when tried in the state court at Eufaula for holding up the train, were acquitted.

## SUPT. ECHOLS PRAISES WORK OF STATE SUPT. R. H. WILSON

Superintendent of Durant Schools Comments Favorably upon the Report and Accomplishments of State Superintendent R. H. Wilson.

The News has received the following communications from Supt. W. H. Echols, of the Durant Public Schools:

"Editor Durant News: 'I have received the Fifth Biennial report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and am greatly pleased to note the wonderful advancement of our public school system in the state of Oklahoma, especially during the past four years.

State Superintendent Wilson has shown wonderful ability in constructive organization and co-ordination of educational forces of the state. During his term of office the schools of the state have made a marked advancement in enrollment, attendance and efficiency in instruction. This is notably true of the state school under control of the state board of education of which Superintendent Wilson is ex-officio chairman.

In his recommendation to the Legislature he has shown that he has given the question of the educational needs of our new state a great deal of thought and that he has taken advanced positions in harmony with the leading educators of the country. Especially is this true in regard to Item No. 16 in the recommendations. This item refers to the county unit of school administration.

Superintendent Wilson has prepared a bill covering this important subject and right well has he done his work. If this bill becomes a law it will systematize and unify the educational interests of the county and make it possible for the rural schools to make rapid advancement in efficiency, and thus bring a common school education within the reach of every boy and girl living in the rural communities. This bill, if it becomes a law, will go a long way toward solving the problem of keeping the boy on the farm and thus making this country self supporting and independent.

## PRUITT MUST STAND TRIAL

One of the Slayers of Ben Collins Loses Nine Year Fight to Evade Trial of case.

The following article from Monday's Oklahoman will prove very interesting to Durant citizens, especially those who are familiar with the circumstances surrounding the killing of United States Marshal Ben Collins, which occurred before statehood. Henry Pruitt was formerly a citizen of Durant. Ben Collins formerly lived at Colbert and was killed in what is now known as Johnston County. Following is the article from the Oklahoman:

"Henry Pruitt, originally indicted with five others for the killing of Ben Collins, deputy United States Marshal, in Johnston county in 1906 lost a nine-year fight to evade the trial when the criminal court of appeals in a per curiam opinion written by Presiding Judge Thomas H. Doyle, Saturday quashed the writ of habeas corpus granted by the district court of Johnston county and ordered that the case be tried. Pruitt, who has been out on a bond of 15 thousand dollars was ordered remanded to the sheriff to await trial.

"Application for the writ of habeas corpus in the Pruitt case was based on the contention that the Johnston county district court did not have jurisdiction to hear the matter for the reason that the territory now comprising Johnston county was a portion of the Indian territory at the time the killing occurred. The opinion held that as the supreme court of the United States never had passed on the question, the rule established by the appellate court of this state should be followed.

"While Pruitt has been waging his long battle for freedom by habeas corpus, all five of his co-defendants have been released from the charges against him—two by death—A. Washwood, Clint Pruitt, and E. P. Alfard have been tried and acquitted and J. B. Miller and B. B. Burwell, the two remaining of the five, were lynched by a mob in Ada in 1907 for assassinating another deputy U. S. Marshall, B. T. Bobbitt, while the Collins charge was still pending in the courts against them.

"Although the criminal court of appeals ordered the case to be tried, attorneys familiar with the records in the noted old case doubt that it will ever be brought to a hearing. In the nine years since Collins was shot and killed many of the witnesses have died. Others who would have to be relied upon by the state have long ago left Oklahoma and cannot be found.

The killing of Ben Collins, a deputy United States Marshall, who was widely known for his activity in enforcing the law in the rough country of his district is recorded as one of the most noted of the many tragedies enacted in that section in the territorial days. Collins was shot off his horse and instantly killed just as he was preparing to alight in front of his home. The killing was just a few moments after Collins had killed a brother of Henry Pruitt's at a ranchers' picnic.

Henry Pruitt, Clint Pruitt, and four others were indicted by a grand jury shortly following the killing. Later, in 1911, a similar indictment was returned for the purpose of conferring authority to try the case in the district court of Johnston county.

Before the furore attending the death of Collins had blown over, J. B. Miller, reputed to be a professional killer with a price of 5 hundred dollars and B. B. Burwell, two of the defendants, together with the other two men, fell upon Deputy Bobbitt and took his life. Men of the surrounding country were so enraged that they tore the quartet from the hands of the officers at dawn the next day and hanged all to the rafters in a liver stable. No arrests followed the lynching.

## New Loan Company in Durant.

The Durant Loan and Investment Company, with J. B. Rose as manager, is the latest business enterprise to locate here. The company will do a farm and city loan business, also general insurance. Mr. Rose comes from Oklahoma City and is highly recommended.

## A TUBERCULOSIS CURE PERFECTED

After Twenty years of experiment and Preparation Dr. C. W. Baynham of this City Has Successfully Compounded a Remedy that Successfully Combats 'White Plague.'

If reports be true, and from what we learn in an interview and through the media of testimonials and affidavits, we are inclined to believe they are true, the great mystery of successfully combating the "Great White Plague" has been solved at last—and what makes it all the more interesting—has been solved by a Durant physician.

Reports reached this office that Dr. Baynham has successfully treated many cases of tuberculosis, many of them of severe type, and that now the patients have been completely restored to health. Realizing such a discovery would be hailed with joy by the entire civilized world, a reporter for this paper sought an interview with Dr. Baynham, with a view of learning whether the reports are true.

The doctor appeared reticent and in stead of answering direct questions, asked what information was wanted. The reporter replied that he wanted the facts relative to the new discovery but that he did not desire to attempt to find out the formula which the doctor would, in his own time, give to the medical fraternity. In reply the doctor said:

"Why should I tell you anything about my discovery, or why should I tell anyone?

"Only recently a German physician landed in New York amid the sounding of trumpets and announced that he had a cure for tuberculosis in all its varied forms. Did he volunteer his secret to the medical profession without price? No, he sold it to a syndicate of wealthy New Yorkers that afterwards found they had bought a "gold brick" instead of a merited discovery. I am not seeking publicity or notoriety. I am simply a plain medical practitioner, and what little of this world's goods I possess were bought and paid for with money earned while others were asleep on their downy couches.

"And while others were asleep I have been making investigations with a determination to discover a remedy for the great plague, and after many years of ceaseless toil of both mind and body, I have discovered it."

The doctor was then asked as to the manner of taking the remedy, and he replied:

"It is taken inwardly as the germ of tuberculosis cannot be subdued through any other channel, but if it should be possible to destroy the germs by direct contact with the blood, it would be a dangerous undertaking and might cause much after trouble. Blood revolts when it is brought into contact with any foreign substance."

In reply to a question as to how the remedy acts upon the system, when taken internally, to counteract the malady, he said: "It acts in a dual manner; first by building up the shattered system, and consequently the blood is made richer and purer, rich enough to destroy the germs of the malady, and pure enough to reinvigorate the entire system.

"It also strengthens the bronchial tubes and air chambers of the lungs and heart; in short, the whole system feels the effect of this new medicine."

When asked if the remedy would restore any tuberculous patient to health regardless of the stage of the disease, and irrespective of the age of the patient, he looked the reporter over carefully and replied:

"No, my remedy will not cure all cases of tuberculosis. When the malady has reached the third stage, or when the patients vitality has been so weakened as to prohibit the rebuilding process, or when the case becomes hopeless, my remedy nor any other remedy will affect a cure nothing but a miracle could save a patient of that class. I would not undertake to treat such a patient. As to the age of the patient, the young will more quickly recover from the malady. Still, the older patients can be successfully treated in some cases.

(Continued on Page Eight)

## CHARGES AGAINST MEMBER OF CORPORATION COMMISSION

Resolution Passes the House of Representatives for an investigation of A. P. Watson who is charged with Accepting Favors from Corporations.

Corporation Commissioner A. P. Watson's official acts are to be held subject to legislative scrutiny under the terms of a House resolution.

Watson is charged in the resolution of having accepted from the "coal trusts" a gift of ten tons of Arkansas Coal, delivered near the Garrison Coal Yards at Oklahoma City, in November 1913, and then delivered to Watson's home at 141 East Twelfth street. Commissioner Watson is also charged with receiving favors from the Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company, by permitting the company to gratuitously wire and pipe the Watson residence.

Another charge in the resolution is that Commissioner Watson and his family, traveling in a magnificent ly equipped train, said to have been the most magnificent ever operated out of Monett, Mo., made a pretended trip of inspection over the St. Louis and San Francisco railroad in Oklahoma.

The resolution also charges that Commissioner Watson accepted a trip over the Rock Island railroad, was furnished Pullman and dining car service free, and then turned in to the state a claim covering his expenses for the services. "He was wine and dined by the employees of the Frisco railroad in Hobart in 1910," is one of the charges made in the resolution for an investigation of Commissioner Watson.

## Charge of Rape Against Boys.

Saturday, Mrs. Mattie Robbins, living north of the M. O. & G. depot filed complaint with the county attorney's office against Leonard Horton and Allie Wilson, two young men around town, the charge being assault with intent to rape. The woman alleges that the boys made the assault at her home. The boys were arrested and are confined in the county jail, unable to make bond.

## BID NATION OF SALOONS WITHIN THIRTY MONTHS

Such is the statement and slogan of the Prohibition Brigade that Held Sway at the Christian Church on Sunday night.

"Within thirty months there will not be a licensed saloon in the United States; there will not be a licensed distillery in the United States; and America will be free from the domination of the liquor interests. The federal government will banish liquor as they banished lottery and gambling and are banishing the drug habit. All will be on the same footing, each state will have the same laws."

This was the substance of the opening remarks of G. J. Hall of Los Angeles, California, who is directing the five members of the National Prohibition "flying squadron" which appeared at the First Christian Church in this city on Sunday evening, in a mass meeting held in the interest of Nation-wide Prohibition. Included in the party are former Governor St. Johns of Kansas, Eugene W. Chaffin twice defeated as candidate for the presidency of the United States, Miss Pearl Buckingham, soloist, and Miss Lulu Irene Haynes, pianist, and the director, Mr. Hall.

The program was very interesting to the large audience in attendance.

After a song by Miss Buckingham Mr. Hall introduced Mr. Chaffin who spoke on the subject of Nation Wide Prohibition. He declared that nation wide prohibition was the only way to get rid of the liquor traffic and that it was inevitably coming in this country because it is demanded by moral and economic principles.

Among other things he told how the funeral of the liquor traffic was to be conducted in Washington, Mr. Chaffin and ex-Governor St. Johns to be two of the leading characters. And that the "funeral" would be held just thirty months from this date.

After another solo by Miss Buckingham, ex-Governor St. Johns was introduced by Mr. Hall, and he told what prohibition had done in Kan-

(Continued on Page Eight)

## RUSHING BLDG. SOLD TO DOWNEN

Consideration in Deed Given as \$25,000.—Largest Real Estate Transaction to be Made Here Since the War Broke Out.

The largest property transfer to be made here since the outbreak of the European war last summer, at which time "things got tight", was closed on Monday of this week when James E. Downen, of this city, purchased the Rushing business block on North Third for a consideration, as stated in the deed, of twenty-five thousand dollars.

The Rushing building is probably the best built, as block in Durant, being modern in every respect, and provided with a basement and furnace heat. The building is fifty feet fronting Third Avenue, and one hundred feet deep. It is stated, although not authoritatively, that the building erected a couple of years ago, cost nearly twenty thousand dollars to build. The first entire floor is occupied by the Perkins Brothers store, and the upstairs is occupied by various offices.

Mr. Downen purposes many improvements in the property, chief of which will be an entire remodeling of the second floor and reinstating of the furnace heat, which has been suspended this last year.

## Helen Keller to Lecture at Denison

Helen Keller, the noted blind girl and her teacher, Mrs. Macey, (Anne Sullivan,) were to have been in Denison on Saturday, February 27, Miss Macey will first lecture on Miss Keller's life and training and then Miss Keller will give her noted lecture on "Happiness." Her voice is so clear that she spoke to 9 thousand people from the lecture stand in Philadelphia last week; in Kansas City she had a week's run and the last nights were more crowded than the first. After the lecture, she answers all questions that are put to her. Miss Keller has been able to talk in the last year perfectly, after twenty years of hard work.

## BIDS ARE ASKED FOR MAIN STREET PAVING PLAN

It now appears that the paving is to be really laid; Council had session brim full of oratory; Bids to be opened March 9th.

After a session full of oratory, argument, and wrangling, the city council at its meeting Tuesday night decided to advertise for bids on the paving of Main street, and the advertisement is now being published, calling for bids to be opened on the Fifth of March.

The practically settles the question of the paving of Main street. This vexed question has been up for the past two years, and time and again it was thought that the paving would go through, but each time something would interfere. The street will be paved with waterbound macadam.

## Favors Jitney Service Here

Wednesday's Daily Democrat carried a squib in which the editor of that paper favors the establishment of a jitney service in this city, and he vouches for the statement that persons here are contemplating the establishment of such a service. It is true that the jitney bus service is cutting into the earnings of the street cars everywhere it has been established, and it is believed by those who have figured on the plan that every live town of five thousand people or more are able to support such service.

## Passengers Need Not Show Tickets.

The supreme court upheld the corporation commission in its order that persons need not show their tickets before they shall be permitted to board passenger trains. The case was an appeal of the St. Louis & San Francisco railroad, the line that resisted the order longer than the others and which was fined by the Corporation Commission. The opinion was written by Justice Sharp. It holds that the authority of the commission is sufficient and that the railroad must comply with the order.

Registered at the Lee-Huckins Hotel in Oklahoma City: Roy Britte,